Exploitation of child labour by the employers

1326. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Child Labours are still being exploited by the employers;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to protect the children from exploitation by the employers ;

(c) whether Government have stipulated any positive meausres for violation of statutory provisions in the employment of children ; and

(d) if so, the number of employers have been prosecuted during last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) Government is aware that large number of children work in difficult circumstances in various employments. With a view to tackling this problem Government has taken the following measures:-

(i) Various existing labour laws like the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 the Factories Act 1948 the Mines Act 1952 the Beedi and Cigar Workers' (Conditions of Employment) Act 1966 and Shops and Commercial Establishments Acts of the States contain provisions prohibiting the employment of children.

(ii) The National Policy on Child Labour formulated in 1987 *inter-alia* provides for effective implementation of the legal provisions relating to child labour ; focussing of general welfare and development programmes for the benfits of child labour and their families and taking up of projects in areas of concentration of child labour to provide welfare inputs like education health care skill development etc. to working children.

(iii) Financial assistance is provided to voluntary agencies for taking up action-oriented projects for the benefit of child labour.

(c) A number of existing labour laws prohibit the employment of children in various employments. Stringent penalties have been laid down for infringement of these legal provisions.

(d) Enforcement of Child Labour legislation is principally the responsibility of the State Governments. According to the information received from the State Governments the number of prosecutions under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and the Factories Act for the years 1987 and 1988 was 403.

Setting up of food processing industry in Madhya Pradesh

1327. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state what are the details of licences issued for establishing food processing industries in Madhya Pradesh in the private and public sector separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : 36 Industrial licences were granted during 1987, 1988 and January-February, 1989 for setting up of Industries in